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Applicant : Mark Webster Newman et al.
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Examiner : Vu, Trisha U

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Proposed Amendment and Interview Summary
Via Fax (571) 273-3643 and Electronic Filing

PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Dear Examiner Vu:

In light of the interview on **19 February 2009 at 1:30PM E.S.T.** please find the proposed amendment and an interview summary below.

Identification of Claims and Reference Discussed

Claim(s) for discussion: Claim 1

Reference(s) for discussion: Hanson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,346, hereinafter “Hanson”).

Applicant’s Arguments

Hanson does not disclose a universal contextual interface that does not have a priori knowledge of the devices’ **domain specific file system domain** or **printer domain protocols**. Hanson discloses a **device driver** with “an operating system (OS) independent device driver portion and an OS specific device driver portion” (Hanson, C3:L27-30). As is well-known in the art, a device driver converts data from a file or an application into a form that can then be used by a hardware device. In contrast, embodiments of the present invention involve a universal contextual interface that does not have a priori knowledge of the

devices' **domain-specific file system domain or printer domain protocols** (instant application, pars. [0001] and [0003]-[0004]). Neither the domain file system protocols nor the printer domain protocols convert data between the operating system or an application and a device. That task is the job of a device driver. That is, domain file system protocols and printer domain protocols are **not** the same thing as device drivers.

Proposed Amendment:

1. (Currently amended) A system comprising:
 - a plurality of devices, wherein devices within the plurality of devices communicate with incompatible protocols;
 - a first device in the plurality of devices having a universal contextual interface,
 - wherein the universal contextual interface does not have a priori knowledge of the devices' domain-specific file system domain or printer domain protocols,
 - wherein the universal contextual interface is implemented in Java;
 - wherein the universal contextual interface comprises instructions that are particular to the first device, wherein the instructions can:
 - be understood and performed by the plurality of devices to enable the plurality of devices to communicate and transfer contextual data with the first device;
 - provide event notifications to the plurality of devices with respect to changes in contextual data for the first device; and
 - enable the plurality of devices to receive user interfaces to allow users of the plurality of devices to view changed contextual data or enable the plurality of devices to receive data from the first device; and

wherein contextual data includes information with respect to the first device including type, owner, history of use, whether the first device is currently in use, other operating status information, identity, location on network, administrative domain, information with respect to one or more users of the first device or files stored at the first device; and

a second device in the plurality of devices that invokes the universal contextual interface of the first device by executing the instructions to transfer the contextual data associated with the first device between the first device and at least one of the other devices in the plurality of devices, the plurality of devices having no prior knowledge of each other;

wherein the universal contextual interface is directly invoked by the second device to allow the contextual data to be transferred to the second device;

wherein the second device registers as a listener with the first device through a notification interface of the first device to receive event notifications with respect to changes in the contextual data associated with the first device; and

wherein the universal contextual interface allows components using different operating systems, communication protocols, file formats, and data types to transfer context information between each other without requiring the components to use domain-specific interfaces, protocols, or data format.

Outcome of Interview

Examiner suggested clarifying the terms file system domain protocol and printer domain protocol.

Respectfully submitted,

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